

Adjectives Practice

Directions: Rewrite as directed, on a separate piece of paper. Refer to your notes or textbook if you have questions.

Exercise 1: On your paper, write whether the adjectives in each sentence. Next to each adjective, write the word it modifies (or describes). Do not count the words a, an and the.

1. She was born a normal child, but Helen Keller suffered a serious illness when she was nineteen months of age.
2. After the unknown illness, no one was able to communicate a clear message to Helen because she was now deaf, and mute.
3. The physical body continued to develop normally; however, because she needed language in order to learn, the mind did not grow strong.
4. The parents wrote to the Perkins Institution for the Blind in Boston, requesting assistance with a seemingly insurmountable problem.
5. The Institution sent a recent graduate, Anne Sullivan, to help the Kellers to educate Hellen.

Exercise 2: On your paper, write an adjective that will complete each of the sentences.

1. How ____ the waves were at the beach last night!
2. Today the ocean, ____ as the sky, appears to have lost its fury.
3. The ____ winds blew the sand into dunes along the fence.
4. As rain falls throughout the day, the beach becomes ____.
5. Sun worshipers flock back to the ____ shore the moment the clouds depart.

Exercise 3: On your paper, write each possessive noun or pronoun that is used as an adjective. The second step is to identify the word it modifies.

1. At about 6 p.m. on July 4, 1826, John Adams's life ended.
2. As Adams drew his last breath, he uttered the words, "Thomas Jefferson still survives."
3. Adams never learned that, in actuality, his friend Jefferson had died several hours earlier.
4. The fact that Thomas Jefferson had been on Adams's mind just before his death is surprising.
5. Their lives had meshed ever since they had collaborated to produce the Declaration of Independence.
6. Regarding their experience working on the document, Jefferson's letter to Adams stated, ". . . we rode through the storm with heart and hand, and made a happy port."
7. In the election of 1796, after Washington's second term as president had ended, Adams and Jefferson ran against each other for presidential office.
8. Adams's party, the Federalists, believed in a strong central government.
9. His opposing party, the Republicans, favored turning to America's land for growth.
10. In this election Jefferson's party lost, and Adams became the second president of the United States, winning by only two electoral votes.

Exercise 4: For each blank, write an example of the type of adjective indicated in the parentheses.

1. ____ contestants (adjective that describes how many)
2. ____ pets (possessive noun used as an adjective)
3. ____ furniture (possessive pronoun used as an adjective)
4. ____ performance (adjective that describes what kind)
5. ____ traffic (adjective that tells which "traffic")
6. ____ vehicle (possessive noun used as an adjective)
7. ____ appointment (possessive pronoun used as an adjective)
8. ____ clients (adjective that describes how many)
9. ____ weather (adjective that describes what kind)
10. ____ briefcase (possessive noun used as an adjective)